



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB 1589
Election Law - Time Off for Employee Voting**

This bill cleans up a provision of the state election law regarding paid time off for voting. Currently, an employee who claims to be a registered voter can receive up to two hours off on Election Day to vote if they do not have two consecutive hours off duty while the polls are open.

HB 1589 would make the following changes:

- Allows an employee who is not yet registered to vote to take paid time off to register and to vote at the polls. This would enable employees to take advantage of Maryland's same day voter registration.
- Allows an employee to take two hours off to vote during early voting or on Election Day.
- Requires an employee's proof of voting to be furnished to their employer in a reasonable and timely manner.
- Prohibits employers from discriminating, retaliating, or taking reprisal against an employee who takes time off to vote.

Given the passage and implementation of same day voter registration, these reforms are needed to ensure that all eligible Marylanders can exercise their right to vote.